



**Mahatma Education Society's
Pillai College of Education and Research
Sector 8, New Panvel 410206**

**Symposium
Education in Universal Human Values**



A symposium on Education in Universal Human Values for teachers was conducted by Pillai College of Education and Research, Panvel in collaboration with Baha'i Academy, Pachgani on 27th April 2019. The objective of this symposium was to equip teachers with some basic ideas about Universal Human

Values and means to inculcate them among their students. This Symposium was conducted after a successful 2-day introductory workshop on Universal Human Values organized for students of different disciplines.

The Symposium began with registration of teachers from various schools and colleges in Navi Mumbai followed by breakfast. Participants from different higher education colleges involved in different disciplines and also school teachers were present. A total of 32 teachers had registered themselves for this symposium.

The inaugural session by Dr. Pratima Pradhan began with a general welcome for all the participants. As is the tradition the symposium began with invoking the Lord's blessing with a prayer and lighting of the lamp which guides everyone in the right direction for the day's activities.

This symposium is the result of collaboration between Baha'i Academy, Panchgani and Pillai College of Education and Research, Panvel and Dr. Pradhan introduced both the institutions for the participants.

The expert for the day, Lesan Azadi Sir was introduced to the audience by Geeta S Thakur and through this everyone got a glimpse of the varied work that Sir is involved with, especially with respect to Human values. He has conducted many workshops and symposiums for

students, teachers and academic leaders since 2000. He was welcomed by Dr. Sally Enos, Principal, Pillai College of Education and Research, Panvel with a potted plant.

Post inauguration, the first session began with Azadi Sir taking the participants to their first cooperative discussion. The participants were divided into groups of 4 and there were total of 8 teams. The first point of discussion was whether value education is needed in schools and colleges. The participants came up with



different perspectives and justification for their answers built a wonderful foundation for further discussion. All the participants felt that value education is needed and the reasons ranged from value education is ignored in our education system and the effect of the same can be seen in the behavioural issues among students, advancements in Science and technology and modernization have resulted in our value system deteriorating, values are needed to help develop a well-rounded personality with social, physical, emotional, mental growth, values are needed for the betterment of the society, today's students are tomorrow's future and they need to grow with the values useful for the society.

Azadi Sir continued the session with incidents and examples from various aspects of our life to emphasis on the importance of universal human values. One such incident mentioned in the book, 'Wings of Fire' by APJ Abdul Kalam was discussed which talks about the civilization as a ship without a compass which would eventually sink. Similarly, a society devoid of moral values will not be able to sustain itself for long.



The next point to ponder was: Where do universal human values come from? The participants discussed the question among themselves and then feedback was taken from each group. They came up with answers which ranged from saying mothers are the nurturers and they are the ones to inculcate values, family, especially joint family was discussed as the agent for value inculcation, Indian culture because of its diversity also propagates values. Azadi Sir further elaborated and gave examples on how nature follows all the rules and it can be seen that religion and nature can be connected and they also become agents of value inculcation.

Next aspect in the symposium was the Maharashtra Universities Act in which out of 18 objectives, 9 objectives focus on developing human values. Each of these objectives were elaborated upon and explained for easy comprehension. Hence, it was concluded that if the Universities Act gives such objectives, colleges of higher education must be making value education a part of their curriculum.

These objectives are as follows:

- 1) to promote discipline and the spirit of intellectual inquiry and to dedicate itself as a fearless academic community to the sustained pursuit of excellence;
- 2) to encourage individuality and diversity within a climate of tolerance and mutual understanding;
- 3) to promote freedom, secularism, equality and social justice as enshrined in the Constitution of India and to be catalyst in socio-economic transformation by promoting basic attitudes and values of essence to national development;
- 4) to carry out social responsibility as an informed and objective critic, to identify and cultivate talent, to train the right kind of leadership in all walks of life and to held younger generation to develop right attitudes, interests and values;
- 5) to promote equitable distribution of facilities of higher education;
- 6) to provide for efficient and responsive administration, scientific management and develop organisation of teaching, research and extension;
- 7) to promote national integration and preserve cultural heritage;
- 8) to develop work culture and promote dignity of labour through applied components in the syllabi;
- 9) to generate and promote a sense of self-respect and dignity amongst the weaker sections of the society.

Each of these objectives were explained as they all dealt with value inculcation.

This was followed by understanding the framework of the programme of Education in Universal Human Values created by Baha'i Academy. These programmes can be completed by students and teachers either in face to face or in distance mode of education. Each module had



distinct number of credits required for the successful completion of the programme. The

programmes were designed in such a manner that each one can be customized for different colleges as per their need, like an add-on course or a diploma course. A detailed understanding of the various courses was given. The session also allowed for questions regarding the courses and the doubts were clarified by Azadi Sir.



A clear vision, a strong sense of moral purpose for individual development as well as social progress, basic forces like attraction to beauty and thirst for beauty, correct understanding of human nature, unity of the human race, service to others are some of the important aspects of these programmes.

This concluded the first session and the participants dispersed for lunch.

The post-lunch session began with a game called co-operative juggling. The game, its objectives and rules were explained by a mentor and two teams were formed to play the game. It took some time for all to understand and play successfully. But the participants enjoyed it thoroughly. The game was processed at the end where the participants were asked questions about different skills, different attitudes that were required to play the game as a team was discussed. Skills like balancing, communication, alertness were some of the skills participants agreed upon. Attitude like positive approach, motivation, friendliness, etc were discussed. At the end participants were asked if these skills and attitudes are required for our daily activities and these skills, attitude and qualities required when we talk of social progress.



Azadi Sir continued with the session and spoke of man as a rich mine of gems of exceptional value. These gems are the various talents that we all are born with. The various courses on Universal Human Values that can be conducted by colleges or courses that can be taken up by students and

staff was explained in detail. This was followed by an interactive session on different methodologies that are used and can be used to teach. Co-operative learning, experiential learning (games, virtual learning, Happy Hippo Show, etc.), individual



learning, service learning was discussed. It was concluded that a nurturing climate is essential for inculcating values among the people.

An MoU was signed between Pillai College of Education and Research, Panvel and Baha'i Academy to continue with the collaboration that started with teachers, students and Principal as workshop and symposium and it was agreed to carry on the various action plan that have been planned. Pillai College and Research, Panvel was represented by Dr. Sally Enos, the Principal and Dr. Bhavna Dave, IQAC coordinator whereas Baha'i Academy was represented by Lesan Azadi, Director, and Ms. Priti Tandale, Programme co-ordinator. Documents were signed and exchanged by both the concerned institutions. Mementos as token of love and appreciation were also exchanged with the promise to continue with the work that has been initiated by the institutions.



Certificates were distributed to all the participants at the valedictory function graced by Shri. A. L. Tripathi, Dy CEO Mahatma Education Society, Khanda Colony campus. A formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by the organizer of the symposium. The symposium came to a successful completion with the singing of the National Anthem.

